English translation of
Notice of Reasons for Rejectioı

Japanese Patent Application No.: 2003-535125
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Notice of Reasons for Rejection
(Translation)

Drafting Date:	July 2, 2007
Dispatch Date:	July 9, 2007
Sections Applied:	29(2), 36, and 37

This application is rejected for the reasons stated below. If the Applicant has any arguments against the reasons, such arguments should be submitted within three months from the dispatch date of this *Notice of Reasons for Rejection*.

Rejections

1. This application fails to comply with the requirements under Japanese Patent Law Section 37 for the reasons described below.

2. The description of the claims of this application fails to comply with the requirements under Japanese Patent Law Section 36(6)(ii) for the reasons mentioned below.

3. The inventions claimed in the following claims are not patentable under Japanese Patent Law Section 29(2), because they could have easily been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, prior to the filing of the present application, on the basis of the inventions described in the documents listed below, which were distributed in or outside of Japan, or made publicly available through electric telecommunication lines, prior to the filing of the present application.

Reasons (Regarding the cited documents, see List of Cited Documents)

Rejection 1

Remarks:

The problem to be solved by the inventions of claims 1-18 and 35-38 is to detect when more than one paper bill has been removed from the stack, and the essential part of the invention is the constituent features for detecting the bill thickness. The problem to be solved by the inventions of claims 19-34 is to assemble a dispenser from a small number of lightweight, easy to manipulate parts, and the essential part of the invention is the constituent features relating to the construction of the dispenser. The problem to be solved by the inventions of claims 39-43 is to detect the tilt, the length, and the jam of the

bill, and the essential part of the invention is the constituent features relating to the skew detection.

Accordingly, the problems to be solved by the inventions described in claims 1-18 and 35-38, 19-34, and 39-43 are different, and the essential parts of the inventions are different. Thus, they do not have the relationships provided in Japanese Patent Law Sections 37(1) and 37(2).

Further, the inventions described in claims 1-18 and 35-38, 19-34, and 39-43 do not have any of the relationships defined in Japanese Patent Law Section 37(3), 37(4), or 37(5).

Since the present application fails to comply with Japanese Patent Law Section 37, claims other than claims 1-18 and 35-38 have not been further examined for requirements other than those of Japanese Patent Law Section 37.

Rejection 2

Claim 1
Remarks:

The phrase "withdrawing currency from a stack of bills for dispensing to a customer" is technically unclear. Because the subject performing the action of "withdrawing currency" is not specified, it is unclear whether the process is performed by an apparatus or by a person.

If the action is performed by a person, such conduct is regarded as arbitrary arrangements and the claimed invention as a whole cannot be construed as utilizing a law of nature, and thus, the claim cannot be considered as an "invention", and may not fulfill the requirements of Japanese Patent Law Section 29(1) main paragraph.

Claim 9
Remarks:

The phrase "the passage comprises a supporting surface and a space next to the supporting surface" is technically unclear. It is unclear, even with reference to the present specification, what is meant by "a space next to".

Claim 35
Remarks:

The phrase "by default" is technically unclear. It is unclear, even with reference to the present specification, what is meant by "default".

Claim 38
Remarks:

The phrase "default routing" is technically unclear. It is unclear, even with reference to the present specification, what is meant by "default routing".

When amending the claims, the Applicant should note that the claim set contains unclear Japanese expressions. Further, regarding the terms "currency" and "bill", the terminology should be unified to either "currency" or "bill".

Rejection 3

Claims 1-18
Cited Documents 1 and 2
Remarks:

Cited Document 1 discloses a bill transportation apparatus equipped with a transducer, in which the transducer is displaced by the thickness of the currency when a currency passes through the path.

Cited Document 2 discloses a pair of inductively coupled elements (magnet 428, bill sensor 429) that are configured to be moved relative to one another by the movement of an elongated finger (sensing plate 427) to detect the currency (see especially paragraphs [0202]-[0203] and Fig. 48).

Given the constituent feature for currency detection of Cited Document 2, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to set an elongated finger in place of a transducer in the invention of Cited Document 1, and to detect the thickness of the currency by a pair of inductively coupled elements that are configured to be moved relative to one another by motion of the elongated finger.

Claims 35-38
Cited Documents 1-3
Remarks:

It is well known in the art to transport the bills without a flaw to the customer's receiving unit and to transport the bills with flaw to the rejecting unit (if necessary, see paragraphs [0021]-[0022] of Cited Document 3).

List of Cited Documents

1. Japanese Patent Kohyo Publication No. (JP-A) S61-502357 (unexamined Japanese national phase publication corresponding to a non-Japanese international publication)

2. Japanese Patent Application Kokai Publication No. (JP-A) H11-328487 (unexamined, published Japanese patent application)

3. JP-A H11-7567

Record of Prior Art Search Results

This record is not a component of the reasons for rejection.

· Prior art references:

1. JP-A S49-77697

2. JP-A H11-263482

3. Microfilm of Japanese Utility Model Application No. S54-128656 (Japanese Utility Model Application Kokai Publication No. S56-46808)

4. Microfilm of Japanese Utility Model Application No. S54-128657 (Japanese Utility Model Application Kokai Publication No. S56-46809)